

PAROXYSMAL NOCTURNAL HEMOGLOBINURIA

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Street Drug Toxicology Laboratories

ABOUT KITS TO RECOGNIZE street drugs: I do not recommend them at all, because when anyone takes the time to put together a kit, by the time they have completed it, the street drugs available in the area have changed significantly. So it would be meaningless. If you really want to do anything about street drugs, I would recommend that you go to the local hospital and convince the head of the pathology department to set up a street drug toxicology laboratory. You can have people anonymously send in samples and you can analyze them and find out what is actually present. You see what they look like and you get some idea of what's going on in your area. . . . By the way, if the people in your area tell you it is illegal: it is not. The Drug Enforcement Administration will give you a license to do it. If you are in a regular hospital, it is no problem at all. . . . I do not recommend you publicize in the newspaper what you find, . . . but you can disseminate the information to the medical community in your area—and that is more important than kits.

—SIDNEY H. SCHNOLL, MD, Philadelphia

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